



506th Air Expeditionary Group



Deployment Guide



Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
506TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP
APO AE 09359

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL 506 AEG PERSONNEL

FROM: 506 AEG/CC

SUBJECT: Newcomer's Welcome Brief

1. Welcome to the Tip of the Spear on the Frontier of Freedom. The 506 AEG facilitates the Reconstruction, Operation, Maintenance, and Base Defense of Kirkuk Regional Air Base (KRAB), Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and other USCENTCOM contingency plans. Kirkuk is strategically located in the central portion of Northern Iraq and plays a key role in the effort to maintain air dominance in this portion of the country; KRAB is the Northern Regional logistical hub serving Air Force, Army, Iraqi Air Force, and other Government and Civilian organizations. In addition, the 506 AEG provides ground-based and military air warning and control as well as civil ATC services for all of Northern Iraq.
2. We will focus on three items during your rotation to KRAB; Mission: Your primary focus shall be on accomplishing your assigned tasks, 100% of the time. This needs to occur on your first day at KRAB as well as your last. Every one of you are here to do a specific job and that job is crucial to the overall mission success. Mission First—Safety Always: As we transition from an Expeditionary to a Sustainment operation, we need to ensure we are doing everything by the book; Tech Orders, Instructions, Standard Operating Procedures, and written guidance. Being in a combat zone is no excuse for poor judgment or shortcuts around safe practices. The goal is “Zero Non-combat Injuries.” As a part of our emphasis on Developing Airmen, we will treat every human being with “Dignity and Respect.” In the enclosed environment of the KRAB, we have the most diverse ethnic, religious, and cultural setting you will ever see. Every single person on KRAB has the right to be treated appropriately. We are a team; you must act accordingly; inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
3. Finally, Airmen, we expect adherence to standards at all times. NCOs, we expect a high level of technical skill, adherence to standards, and leadership at all times. SNCOs, we expect you to hold all Airmen accountable for their actions and to mentor them each and every day. Officers, we expect a high level of initiative and follow through. We need everyone to come together as a team to accomplish the mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James E. Daniel, Jr.", is positioned above the printed name.

JAMES E. DANIEL, JR., Colonel, USAF
Commander

506 AEG Vision:

“Expeditionary airman...sustaining Global Mobility... Maintaining Air Dominance & Support... to establish a nation... so freedom may flourish....”

WE ARE HERE

Kirkuk is located in northern Iraq, about 250 kilometers north of the capital of Baghdad near the foot of the Zagros Mountains. Kirkuk lies just south of the former no-fly zone patrolled by U.S. and British aircraft.

The city is built by the Hasa River on an area with archaeological remains over 5000 years old, the city reached great prominence in the 10th and 11th centuries, under Assyrian rule when it was known as Harrapha. The oldest part of the town is clustered around a citadel built on an ancient tell, or mound.



The discovery in 1908 of oil by British explorers in Masjid-i-Sulaimant led to the creation of British Petroleum (BP). This highlighted the potential of the region that was to be exploited following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1918. Oil was discovered in Kirkuk in northern Iraq in 1927 and around the same time attention was shifting to the western littoral of the Gulf.

The Kirkuk region, rich in its oil fields and farmlands, has been one of the principal obstacles to finding a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question in Iraq. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Iraqi regime destroyed over 3,000 Kurdish villages.

As of early 1988, Iraqi artillery shells, bombs, and rockets loaded with chemical warfare (CW) materials were stored either at Samarra or in a large ammunition dump near the town of Muhammadiyat. This facility was located outside of Baghdad. Additionally, 122-mm rockets temporarily were stored at the airbase in Kirkuk for further transport to Sulaymaniyah. Mention of CW storage at "the airbase in Kirkuk" in the 1988 report further strengthened the US intelligence community's focus on S-shaped bunkers and the assessment that they would be used for forward deployment of chemical munitions, but were not intended for long-term storage.

GENERAL ORDER 1A

The purpose of General Order 1A is to identify conduct that is prejudicial to the maintenance of good order and discipline of Air Force personnel assigned to or attached to duty with 9 AETF units in the USCENTCOM AOR. General Order 1A prohibits the following:

- a. Possession, manufacture, importation, distribution or consumption of alcohol.
- b. Introduction, purchase, possession, use, sale, transfer, manufacture or consumption of any controlled substances or drug paraphernalia. Prescription drugs must be accompanied by the original prescription label of the prescribing medical facility or authority.
- c. Introduction, possession, transfer, sale, creation or display of any pornography or sexually explicit material. This includes but is not limited to photos, videotapes, movies, drawings, cartoons, books and magazines. "Sexually explicit" means depiction or description of nudity, including sexual or excretory activities or organs, in a lascivious or lustful way. The exceptions are magazines videotapes lawfully obtained by AAFES, AFRTS, and MWR center.
- d. Purchase, possession, use or sale of privately owned firearms, explosives or ammunition.
- e. Gambling of any kind including sports pools, lotteries and raffles.
- f. Entrance into a mosque or other site of Islamic religious significance unless directed by military authorities as part of a military necessity or official tour.
- g. Removing, possessing, selling, defacing or destroying archaeological artifacts or national treasures.
- h. Selling, bartering or exchanging any currency at other than official exchange rate.
- i. Adopting mascots caring for or feeding any type of domestic or wild animals.
- j. Proselytizing (preaching) or attempting to win converts to any religion, faith, or practice.
- k. Taking war trophies as souvenirs.
- l. Attending disciplinary ceremonies of any kind, such as public executions.
- m. Visitation by persons of the opposite gender to an Air Force member's sleeping quarters is prohibited except for official purposes or as approved by the Air Expeditionary Wing Commander or Air Expeditionary Group Commander.

Violations of the above rules are punishable under Article 92 of the UCMJ.

TRAVEL

Critical Items: Currently, you are authorized to travel to and from the AOR in your DCUs (check your orders for further guidance). If you choose to do so, you must carry one change of appropriate civilian cloths in a carry on bag to adapt to the situation. The opposite applies if you choose to wear civilian clothes to your port of debarkation (Al Udeid most personnel). You must carry one complete set of DCUs in your carry-on, including your boots and hat. Additionally, you must hand carry your mobility folder and copies of your orders. Make sure to put a copy of your orders in each of your travel bags and mark them well.

Upon Arrival: Most of you will travel through Al Udeid on your way to Kirkuk. When you arrive at Al Udeid and deplane, you will be met and briefed by the PERSCO team. They will brief you on transient policies, General Order 1A, and will also tell you show time for your connecting flight to Kirkuk. Write down show times and your troop commander's name. They will then release you and to collect your bags and shown the armory to store your weapon until you depart Al Udeid. (Do not forget to retrieve your weapon for the flight to Kirkuk)

Mark your Baggage: Before you travel, it's highly recommended you tie a unique ribbon or tag to your bags prior to your departure from home base. As you will discover, when it's time for you to collect your bags, every bag is just like yours—green. It's also highly probable that you will search for your bags in the dark. The easier you make it to identify your bags, the less time you will spend searching. For personnel traveling in large groups, you may find it worthwhile to pool together to purchase a large piece of fabric that can be cut into strips for each person to tie to their bags. It will make it very easy to identify bags on your team. To make sure your items stay dry, it's also a good idea to first put your clothing in either a large plastic garbage bag or individually packed zip-loc bags before you put them in your suitcase/green bag.



(Note the strips tied to the bags for easy identification at Al Udeid)

Where to Stay at Al Udeid: Depending on aggregate airlift, you can expect turn-around time to be a few hours or a few days. If staying over night, you can choose between temporary lodging (a large tent with approximately 200 cots located ¼ mile from the passenger terminal) or board the bus to billeting. You will only be allowed to bring your carry-on bag; all other bags (**except weapons that must be checked into the armory**) will be left *outside* in the compound area near the passenger terminal.



(Inside the temporary tent near the passenger terminal)

In Your Carry-On: Make sure you pack enough clothes in your carry-on for 3-5 days at Al Udeid. A good tip is to separate “clean” clothes in large zip-loc bags (1 t-shirt, 1 pair of socks, 1 pair of underwear, etc). When you shower, bring a zip-loc bag of clean clothes with you. After you shower, place your dirty clothes back in the empty zip-loc bag. Also, bring a towel and any other toiletry items you may need.

There is a mini-BX located near the passenger terminal for any last minute items you forgot to pack. It’s also a good idea to pack a 10-foot long p-cord/or string and a few clothes pins and a small amount of laundry soap just incase you run out of clean clothes and need to wash clothes in a sink/shower. There are no laundry facilities near temporary lodging and turn-around time at the cleaners is minimum 72-hours. Do not put you clothes in the cleaners at Al Udeid. Your plane will leave before you can get them back



(Building the baggage pallet at Al Udeid)

Back to the Passenger Terminal: You must be in uniform (DCU) for the trip to Kirkuk, and you must retrieve your weapon from the armory before reporting to the passenger terminal for your show-time. The passenger terminal will have you report a few hours prior to your flight so you can build the pallet for your bags and check in. **YOU MUST WEAR YOUR FLACK VEST/BODY ARMOR AND HELMET** for your flight to Kirkuk. Do not leave them in your bags and do not let your bags be palletized before you remove them from your bags! (Put them in your bag last, so they are easily accessible)

Your Flight to Kirkuk: Most of you will travel from Al Udeid to Kirkuk on a C-130. It is approximately a 3-hour flight. Depending on threat conditions, you may not have to wear your flack vest/body armor and helmet during the entire trip—but you must wear it during final approach and landing. Make sure you are hydrated before you get on the flight. Many flights are at night—get rest on the flight if you can.



(On board the C-130 from Al Udeid) (FYI – This is a bathroom on a C-130.
Go before you get on the plane!)

When You Land: When you arrive at the Kirkuk passenger terminal, you will first be given a brief by PERSCO, complete your emergency locator information, and sign some forms. When finished, you will be released into the greeting area where you will be met by your sponsor, first sergeant and others from the unit. We will escort you to the area where you will first check your weapon into the armory. If for some reason you were not issued Level-Four Individual Protective Equipment (body armor) at Al Udeid or Ali Al Salem Air Base, at this time we will then take you to the area where you will be issued IBA gear. Finally, we will transport you to your living area and take you to the dining facility.

Your First 72-Hours: You will find the next 72-hours very busy. During that time, you will be learning your deployed job, training on additional duties, and learning your way around. At a minimum, you will have 3 days to learn your position from the person you are replacing. You will also attend a base Right Start briefing that includes briefings by base organizations. Throughout the rest of your rotation, anticipate working 12-hr(+) days with 1 day off each week.

Your Safety

Kirkuk is a work in progress. Hazards abound and are impossible to correct in the short term, but each day improvements add to our margin of safety. Because of this unusual environment, it is important for you to think clearly and with foresight to overcome or at least mitigate the obstacles that may cause us harm or damage our equipment, hindering our ability to accomplish our mission and also return home without regrets and fully intact. Here are a handful of specific items to know about or be especially cautious of:

- a. All personnel except security personnel (anyone assigned for security detail) must wear a reflective belt outside during the hours of darkness.
- b. You will need a flashlight. The base is a “black out” area and outside lights are not used. Many use the mini-clip on flashlight and attach it to their top button hole on their DCU blouse. In addition, mini-mag lights work well and they fit in the body armor webbing.

- c. Smoking in Modules and tents is prohibited, including the vestibule area. Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of the modules. Smoking is allowed in designated smoking areas. Butt cans will be utilized for butts, not trash.
- d. Trip & fall hazards are everywhere - individual alertness is an absolute necessity.
- e. Driving is a major concern here. Drive slowly and even slower as conditions dictate.
- f. Seatbelts are mandatory--always buckle up!

MEDICAL PRECAUTIONS

Due to the lack of sleep, constant contact with people, and not eating right, many people when they arrive, experience the Kirkuk Krud—otherwise known as the common cold. To avoid it, make sure you're physically fit before you travel, wash your hands often, and take vitamin C. In addition follow three simple rules while you travel: Eat, sleep, and drink water every chance you get—you never know when you may get another opportunity.

The Sun: Even during the winter months, sun exposure can be a problem. Apply SPF 15 or higher to all exposed skin when working outdoors. Your best protection is to wear a hat and keep your sleeves down.

Wild Life: LEAVE THEM ALONE!! Do not attempt to catch, kill or harass spiders, snakes, scorpions, cats, dogs, or any other animals on base. Consider all bugs and snakes to be venomous! Shake out your boots. Wear gloves when working around sandbags. Keep your fingers in sight. (Camel Spiders are NOT aggressive, contrary to popular opinion. They seek shade and if you have a shadow they will seek that as shade.) General order number one prohibits mascots! Do not feed any rodents or stray animals. Wear Deet and spray your uniforms with permethrin every six washings.

Water: Tap water on base is non-potable. Drink only bottled water and use bottled water to brush your teeth. Drink approximately 1.5 liters per hour during extremely hot weather. The dining facility also has individual packs of Gatorade for you to mix with water.

Vaccinations: All personnel deployed to KRAB are required to stay current on all necessary immunizations and vaccines. If and/or when notified by Public Health here at Kirkuk, personnel will report to the EMEDs Emergency Room on M, W, F from 0900 to 1100 to receive their shot(s).

FULL SPECTRUM THREAT RESPONSE

The Environment: You are deploying to an area where hostile aggressive actions are taken against the base. You will experience Alarm Yellow, Red and Black conditions. To mitigate risk, members must be within 3 minutes of their body armor and helmet when not worn. For your situational awareness, recommend you read specific information on SIPRNet intelligence reports for the Kirkuk area. **BRING AND READ YOUR AIRMAN'S MANUAL.** It is crucial you know how to wear your body armor correctly.

Dependent upon your orders, you may bring a C-bag or may be issued the C-bag in route. Either way, you will bring your own gas mask with your fit test certification. If you bring your C-bag from home station ensure you have the following items:

All personnel must have:

2 sets of sealed over garments
2 sets of GVOs or 4 sets of black over boots
4 pairs of gloves and inserts
4 filter canisters (unopened)
1 MCU-2A/P mask
4 hoods (real-world hoods) or J-list suit

1 M9 tape, 1 M8 paper
4 decon kits
Web belt
Empty canteen including cup/cover
Helmet with liner

LODGING

While here, you will be living in heated/air conditioned modular Multiple Occupancy Dorms (MODs). Each MOD has 16 rooms approximately 20' X 20', and a community bathroom at the end of the facility. The number of occupants in each room depends on the rank and number of males/females in each AEF rotation. As a guide, CGOs and SNCOs usually will have four personnel to a room, junior NCOs five to a room, and Airmen six to a room. Remember this is just a guide and will be reactive to the amount of personnel assigned to Kirkuk. During AEF change over you can expect to have twice the amount of personnel normally housed in each room. Normally, each individual is assigned a bunk bed—with the top bunk free for you to place your bags and body armor on while you sleep. Placing your bags and gear on the top bunk frees up floor space and provides a measure of protection in the event there is a sky-burst rocket or mortar above the mod.



Bathroom Rules: Combat showers are MANDATORY: 30 seconds to get wet, stop the water, lather up, 2.5 minutes to wash off...no more than 3 minutes total! Only toilet paper may be placed in the toilets. Conserve water--run water only when actively using it.

Some general rules of conduct in the modular dorm area are:

Quiet hours are 24/7.

Rooms and common areas must be kept clean/neat. Sweep often, seal your food items, make your bed, and control your dirty clothing.

No Smoking inside. Smoking is permitted only in designated smoking areas, which are indicated by a butt-can, and must be at least 25 feet from all modules. Do NOT move the butt cans. Do not remove the chairs from the smoking areas.

Commanders, the Command Chief, First Sergeants, CE, Medical, Services, Fire, and Safety personnel may inspect the modules/tents any time.

Used bedding items may be signed out from lodging office on an as needed basis. You may want to bring at least one set of twin sheets.

UNIFORM & CLOTHING

Duty uniform is the Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU). You are authorized to wear the 8-point DCU cap and floppy hat. The floppy hat must be worn with the brim down with the string tied behind the head or under the chin – not “cowboy” or “Aussie” style. Kirkuk Air Base is a hat/salute area. Generally, DCUs should only have your name tape, AF tape, rank, and CENTAF patch (right breast pocket). Specialty badge is optional. Officers should have their rank sewn on their hats and their helmet covers.

The new AF PT uniform is available to purchase at the mini-BX; however, supplies are limited. Other PT clothing must be plain black, dark blue, or gray and conservative in nature. Shorts must be mid-thigh in length, and tank tops are not authorized. Individuals are required to wear a reflective belt when wearing non-AF PT uniform. It is advised that you buy your PT uniform items before deploying; availability at Kirkuk is limited. Additionally, the authorization to wear other PT clothing is coming to an end.

Wear of the AF PT uniform during non-duty hours is authorized, but limited to the cantonment area and by exception to certain areas of the base. You will be briefed on those locations upon arrival. The DCU is required at all other times. The only uniform authorized in the Dining Facility (DFAC) is the DCU. Minimize your civilian attire when packing, as it may only be worn inside the MODs.

You must wear a reflective belt during dark hours and use a flashlight for safe maneuvering around obstacles at night.

TRANSPORTATION

Your unit might have several vehicles assigned to it. Most vehicles here in Kirkuk are manual. In addition, many people car-pool to and from work. The drive to work is approximately a 5-10 minutes. In addition to car-pooling, the base has a bus service that stops at many locations every

30 minutes. Driving is a privilege here, not a right. Speeding and safety belt violations result in administrative actions and/or driving suspensions.

LAUNDRY SERVICE

Uniform cleaning is provided for free by contractor located at the Clamtina recreation center. The Clamtina is inside of the cantonment area and is a short walk from the MODs. Minimum turn-around time on uniform cleaning is 3 days.

Free laundry service is also provided by contract for drop-off near the dining facility—approximately a 5-minute walk from your living area. At this facility, all your clothing is placed in laundry bag and washed together. You will have to sign a disclaimer releasing them from responsibility for possibly damaging your clothes. Turn around time for this service ranges from 24-72 hours. There is also a U-Wash facility with many washing machines and dryers. Powdered detergent is provided.



RECREATION

The 506th Expeditionary Services Squadron provides a Recreation Center with a lot of activities to entertain the troops. The **Clamtina** (large clamshell tent) is located by the BX/PX, just a couple minute walk from the MODs. It has big screen TVs which show movies and main sporting events. The Clamtina also has ping pong tables, pool tables, foosball tables, and numerous board games and decks of cards. Bingo is held on Saturdays and many other base-wide events are held in this facility. The “bar” sells slushies, beverages, and snacks, and they have DVDs for sign out.



(Inside view of the Clamtina)



(KRAB Busters Movie Theater)

PT

Kirkuk has a large gym facility located in the cantonment area, a larger gym located on the opposite side of base near the Comm-pound and pax-terminal, and an even larger gym facility currently under construction just outside the cantonment area. Between the three of them, they have free-weights, cardio equipment (treadmill, bike, etc), resistance type equipment, indoor and outdoor basketball courts and aerobic rooms. In addition, there are fitness classes in the evening; availability depends on the type of instructors during your AEF rotation (they take volunteers with experience!). There is also an authorized (up to five mile) outdoor running route that minimizes traffic and associated dust. It is at the discretion of the unit commander whether the unit will have mandatory PT sessions.



LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER



The LRC is located in the cantonment area. There are a number of services that the LRC can provide including upgrade skill level OJT and ordering CDCs, exams, and associated course materials. You can also check your grade status on the computer. The LRC provides PME support and testing via correspondence for ALS, NCOA, SNCOA, SOS, ACSC, and AWC. An on-site training manager is available to offer study assistance, progress evaluation, recommendations, Commander Support, and supervised review study. Check with your counselor at your home station for classes you need to complete your CCAF. Chances are you can CLEP/DANTES all your CCAF credits during your rotation here!

MORALE CALLS

You are allowed two 15-minute morale calls per week. If you need more time than that to resolve a family issue at home, talk to your first sergeant.

There are many ways to call the home; all of the access codes for the different bases are available here and will be provided to you when you arrive. This DSN access will only allow you a point of presence at a state-side telephone switch. From there, you can be off netted by the base operator to either a local number or a pre-paid calling card for long distance.

Due to CENTAF policy and limited network bandwidth, Kirkuk does not have videophone or video teleconferencing capabilities.

E-MAIL

Your e-mail address will be: Firstname.Lastname@krab.centaf.af.mil.

All personnel are authorized to use e-mail for morale provided it does not violate AFI 33-119 or the CENTAF Special Instruction for Communications (SINC).

The JTF-SWA Commander has directed all AOR network control centers block access to internet mail and messaging services such as AOL Instant Messaging, Hotmail, and Yahoo Mail. Consider a GI-Mail account for other personal business.

MAIL SERVICE

Your mail delivery address while you're deployed is:

Rank/Name

506 UNIT/ (add office symbol if you know it, e.g. SCB, SCX, SCS, SCM)

APO AE 09359

The base has one post office. Incoming mail is delivered to the post office and then is picked up by the unit orderly room staff. Mail and packages are averaging 10 – 14 days shipping time from the states. The orderly room staff will then notify you via e-mail when you have a package for pickup. In addition, there is an outgoing letter box in the orderly room for your outgoing letters. You do not have to pay postage on letters going to the states or APO addresses.

To mail outgoing packages, you must go to the post office, which is open Mon–Sat. Packages cannot be sealed until the contents have been reviewed by post office personnel. This is to avoid members mailing illegal/controlled substances or “war trophies” out of the AOR. Packing tape and customs forms are available at the post office for you to seal your package when the package search is complete. The post office **ONLY** accepts cash—no credit cards or checks! You are not allowed to mail any contents of you're A, B, or C mobility bags!

RELIGIOUS SERVICES



(Chapel)

There is one Air Force Chaplain for your spiritual needs while assigned to Kirkuk. As always, they can be reached 24/7 at 444-2059/2060 or through the Command Post 444-2058. There is also the Army Chapel. Both AF and Army offer a number of religious services each week for the Catholic and Protestant faiths. In addition, there are scheduled times of prayer, music, and Bible Study.

KRAB Chapel Schedule

Monday

1900 – Ladies Fellowship (Hotel Charlie)
1900 – Catholic Meditation Group (LRC)
2000 – Song of Solomon (Bible Study)

Tuesday

1130 – Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
1900 – Protestant Band Practice (Freedom Chapel)
1900 – Men's Bible Study (Bastone Chapel)

Wednesday

1130 – Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
1900 – Gospel Service Bible Study (Freedom Chapel)
1900 – Bible Study (Hotel Charlie)

Thursday

1130 – Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
1900 – Protestant Band Practice (Freedom Chapel)
1930 – Bible Study (Bastone Chapel)

Friday

1130 – Catholic Mass (Freedom Chapel)
1200 – Muslim Service (Base Mosque)
1900 – Gospel Choir Practice (Freedom Chapel)

Saturday

1800— Liturgical Protestant Service (Freedom Chapel)
1900 – Mass (Freedom Chapel)
1930 – Gospel Service (Bastone Chapel)
2115 – Rosary & Mass (DFAC)

Sunday

0800 – Gospel Service (Freedom Chapel)
0900 – Catholic Mass (Bastone Chapel)
0900 – LDS Service (LRC)
1000 – Contemporary Worship Service (Freedom Chapel)
1100 – General Protestant Service (Bastone Chapel)
1130 – Mass (Freedom Chapel)
1500 – LDS Service (Bastone Chapel)
1900 – Catholic Fellowship “Theology on Tap” (Hotel Charlie)
1900 – Contemporary With Communion Worship Service (Freedom Chapel)
2000 – LDS Service (LRC)
2030 – Catholic Rosary (Freedom Chapel)



DINING

Eating is NOT a problem while assigned to Kirkuk. The KBR Dining Facility (DFAC) is a huge heated/air conditioned modular facility offering breakfast, lunch, dinner, and midnight chow. They provide an incredible variety of food and drink. In addition to normal entrées, it includes a salad bar, dessert tray, cold sandwich line and ice cream dispenser!

In addition to the DFAC, Kirkuk also has a mini-Pizza hut that serves personal pan size pizzas (around \$5) and a mini-Burger King (around \$5 - \$6 per meal). The mini-BX also stocks some food items, mainly snacks.



(Green Beans Coffee)



(Pizza Hut)

FINANCE

Finance is primarily used for check cashing purposes. The finance office is not located near the living area; however, it is passed going to/from work. Check cashing limit is \$200 a week or more during the monthly bazaar. Where would you need cash? The BX takes credit cards, but most other vendors, such as pizza hut, the Clamtina service bar, and the barber/beauty salon take cash.

Finance can also assist with accrual travel vouchers, US Savings Deposit Program, MyPay PINs, and allotment changes. There is also a self help computer for your use to file your accrual, check myPAY, and check you travel car balance. It is recommended you have a second checking account if appropriate, with allotment to that account in your budget. One bounced check and you lose your check cashing privileges for 30 days. **There are NO ATMs at Kirkuk.**

MEDICAL CARE

The EMEDS is located in front of MOD 8. Emergency/medical care is available 24 hrs a day. Ambulance response is available via phone (444-2260) or radio – Medical net or by fire-crash notification. You will be well cared for!



Public Health Tidbits:

- Currently located in front of MOD 8
- Sick-Call Hours: 24/7
- EMEDS Crisis Hotline: 444-2260
- Physicians are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Medical and Shot Records will be collected at Right Start briefing
- Use DEET on your skin, and permethrin on your uniforms and bed net
- Protect your skin from the sun; use sunscreen (minimum of 15 SPF)
- Clean-up after yourself; break down boxes and crush water bottles
- Avoid snakes, scorpions and stray animals; absolutely no mascots
- Shake out uniform and boots before wearing to remove critters
- Check yourself for ticks daily
- Avoid local foods; consume approved sources only. (DFAC food is great chow)
- Avoid consuming ice unless approved; use in coolers only
- Ensure you stay hydrated; don't rely on your thirst as an indicator of your hydration level. Monitor your urine color (darker color = dehydration).
- Wash your hands frequently, especially after using the latrine and before eating
- Use a hand sanitizer if hand-washing facilities are not available
- Take combat showers due to limited waste handling capacity
- You are restricted from use of the swimming pool until your smallpox scab has fallen off

*DEET and Permethrin are available at EMEDS Public Health Office 444-2790

LEGAL OFFICE

The Legal Office is located next to the communications compound in the group HQ building. KRAB legal offers all of the same services you'd find at your legal office back home, including legal assistance, powers of attorney, notaries and claims service.

PERSCO



PERSCO is a limited MPF facility. Personnel services include reenlistments, extensions, and updating assignment preferences. They do not have PC-III/MilPDS/DEERS capabilities. Also, ID/CAC cards cannot be produced here, so make sure yours is in good shape.

If you will be promoted while at Kirkuk, you must bring a letter from your home station commander stating that you are recommended for promotion. (Bring your stripes) A copy of the required letter is at the back of this welcome package. If you do not have a letter with you, inform your deployed First Sergeant as soon as possible for assistance.

OTHER HELPFUL HINTS

What to bring with you: Specific items that you must bring are identified in the AOR reporting instructions provided by your Unit Deployment Manager/Personal Readiness Unit. We've compiled a list below of recommended items you should consider bringing to Kirkuk.

Almost everything you will need for personal hygiene can be purchased through the BX. Don't waste luggage space packing 10 bars of soap, 5 cans of shaving cream, etc., unless there is only one specific brand you prefer to use. Generally speaking, when packing toiletries, pack enough to last 1 month. Ask your sponsor what is available locally before packing too much. In regards to electronics, your living area will have 220-power with the traditional (German style) two-prong plug. Your work center will have 110-power.

You can also mail some items (e.g., pillow, bed linen, laundry bag) in advance to 506 UNIT/Office Symbol (your name) APO AE 09359. Your items will be placed in the unit Orderly Room awaiting your arrival. This will eliminate excess baggage for you to carry. All packages will remain sealed until inbound member arrives. Expect 14 days for mail to arrive. However, if for some reason your deployment is cancelled, we can not be responsible for any expense to return your boxes. So, to help with getting your things to you, please check the appropriate box in block 16 of the customs form (Abandon..., Return..., Redirect...).

Red Cross: The closest American Red Cross (ARC) office is located at Camp Doha. Ensure you brief your family members (including parents and other relatives) on procedures for contacting the ARC. Make sure your family members know to contact your home station First Sergeant or Commander for emergency situations.

Return Information: Give your families a "window" of time that you should be leaving the AOR. Plans change all the time for many reasons, so giving specific dates is asking for trouble and heartache.

WEATHER

Winter (December-March)

Winter weather generally features fair skies. However, there are short periods of precipitation and occasional dust storms. The majority of rain, cloud cover, and thunderstorms occur in winter. Very cold temperatures occasionally bring snowfall. This occurs on an average of 1-2 days every 3-4 years. Shamal winds occur year round at Kirkuk. These are very strong northerly winds that may cause dust and sandstorms. Winter temperatures are generally mild, but on occasion surprisingly cold weather can last for a day or two. The temperature falls to or below freezing on an average of 1 day or less in every month except in January, which averages 3 days.

Spring (April-May)

This season is usually warm and sometimes hot, especially in May. Temperatures have been known to reach well above 100F. Dust and haze become more common during May. Shamal winds gradually increase in strength and frequency. Rainfall decreases and thunderstorms become rare by the end of May.

Summer (June-September)

In the summer conditions are clear, hot and dry, often extremely hot. Dust and haze are common. Rainfall may occur but is rare and thunderstorms are almost nonexistent. The shamal

winds are strongest in June and July. This is often called the time of 40-day shamal, an indicator of the persistent nature of these northerly winds.

Fall (October-November)

By mid-September, the common dust and haze of summer slowly decreases. Precipitation gradually increases over the fall. The first snow flurries are possible by the end of November, but are very rare. Temperatures cool quickly from the blistering heat of summer but most of October is still quite warm. The temperature falls to or below freezing only rarely in November.

Average rainfall and temperatures for each month

Month	Average High Temp.	Average Low Temp.	Record High Temp.	Record Low Temp.	Average Rainfall (Inches)
Jan	55	38	73	20	2.4
Feb	60	40	80	20	2.6
Mar	67	45	86	22	3.3
Apr	77	54	98	32	2.1
May	91	65	110	47	0.8
Jun	101	74	119	57	Trace (< 0.01)
Jul	107	79	120	68	Trace (< 0.01)
Aug	106	79	119	67	Trace (< 0.01)
Sep	100	71	115	49	Trace (< 0.01)
Oct	88	62	106	34	0.2
Nov	72	54	91	30	1.5
Dec	59	43	79	21	2.3

SMART THINGS TO BRING

- Credit/debit card for personal use at the BX
- Checkbook for cashing checks at finance
- Cash (for travel only)
- Phone cards (probably cheaper where you are and the BX here does run out)
- PT gear (sneakers, socks, shorts, t-shirts – make sure you read the rules on colors)
- Black t-shirts (brown ones sometimes change to a tie-die lavender in the u-wash laundry)
- Socks/underwear to last 7-10 days
- Extra pair of DCU boots if you have them
- Shower shoes (you walk up/down hallway to your shower)
- Prescription glasses/reading glasses
- Sunglasses (wrap around style or Wiley-X that keep dust out are ideal. Try to get Wiley-Xs issued at home base. Eye protection is essential and they are approved ballistic protection)
- Flashlight with one set of spare batteries
- Leatherman/Gerber
- 1-week supply of personal items in your carry-on luggage
- Toiletries:
 - o Shaving cream
 - o Disposable razors, electric razor

- Hand/body lotion
- Feminine Napkins (females)
- Tissues/Kleenex (1 pack)
- Soap in a soap case or zip lock bag
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Comb/brush
- Nail clippers
- Mole skin (good while breaking in your boots!)
- A few band-aids
- Foot powder
- Chapstick
- Aspirin/Tylenol
- Sunscreen
- Laundry bag
- Extra A-3 bag
- Small emergency sewing kit
- Travel combo or key lock for your bags. Your room will have a key-lock, lockable locker
- Personal pillow and twin-size bed sheets (linen will be available at lodging but may not match. Pillows are in short supply)
- Small package of laundry soap/drier sheets (u-wash facility has free powder detergent)
- Clothesline/pins (if stuck while traveling)
- Zip Loc bags (if it's not in a bag, it will get dust in it)
- Alarm clock – battery-powered work well here, or remember your voltages...
- Digital camera if you have one. Again remember your voltages.
- Laptop is your choice and your responsibility, as well. ECS will configure your personal laptop when you arrive for use on the Govt network. Do not connect to LAN until approved. If you have special software on your laptop, bring the software to reload after re-configuration.
- Bring new DCU rank if you will be promoted while at Kirkuk. DCU rank can be acquired through supply here at Kirkuk (slow). In addition, uniform alterations can be performed at an on-base AAFES vendor. Plan ahead. And **BRING YOUR PROMOTION LETTER** (see sample next page). No one will be promoted without the letter.

SAMPLE PROMOTION LETTER

DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR 506 AEG/PERSCO

FROM: <Home Station Commander>

SUBJECT: Promotion Recommendation Letter

1. The individual(s) listed below is recommended for promotion to **RANK** on the date indicated. If non-recommended, IWA AFI 36-205, paragraph 3.2, promotion non-recommendation/ deferral/ with letter is attached:

Name & SSN

Promotion Seq #

Promotion effective date

<Commander>, <Rank>, USAF
Commander

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

CONTACT LISTING

Agency	DSN
Group CEM	444-2055
Group First Sergeant	444-2054
Group Commander's Support Staff	444-2057 / 2096
Public Affairs	444-2075
ECS Help Desk: Open 24-hrs	444-2015
Services (open 24 hrs):	
Oasis	444-2484
Krabbuster Video	444-2474
Clamtina	444-2474
Cyber Cafe	444-2477
Lodging	444-2482
Fitness	444-2479
PERSCO:	444-2076 /
Open M-Fri 0800-2000	2077 / 2078/
Sat 0800-1200	2079
Finance:	444-2065
Open M-Sat 0800-1700	
Legal:	444-2067
Open M-Fri 0830-1830	
Sat 0900-1900	
Sun 1300-1900	
Appts available 24/7	
Post Office:	444-2098
Open M-Sat 1000-1630	
Command Post	444-2058 / 2096
NBCC Ops	444-2601 / 2290/
Radio frequency 1	2447 / 2449
SRC number: report damage, suspected UXOs, casualties, or other emergency information	
May also report to:	
SFS/BDOC	444-2489
DCC	444-2319
Command Post	444-2058 / 2096
EMEDS 24-hour Crisis Hotline	911

DFAC Hours of Operation

Breakfast	0530-0830
Lunch	1130-1330
Dinner	1700-2000
Midnight	2300-0100

CHAPEL SERVICES

AF Chapel		
Catholic Svs		
	Saturday	1900
	Sunday	1130
Protestant Svs		
	Mon –Thursday MASS Sunday	1130
	Gospel	0800
	Contemporary	1000
	Inter-denominational Service 1130 (Fire Station by Control Tower) Traditional	1900
	LDS (LRC) Sacrament Mtg	0900, 2000
Army Chapel		
Catholic Svs		
	Saturday	1430- DFAC
	Sunday	0900
		1400
Protestant Svs	LDS Sacrament Mtg.	1500
	Saturday	
	Gospel	1930
	Sunday	
	Liturgical	0800
	General Protestant	1000

SERVICES

Laundry Self Serve:	Open 24 hours
Contract Laundry	Open Daily 1000-1800
Pool Hours Open 8 May - 31 Oct	0800-1900 everyday except Wednesday